

RECOGNIZING JAMES R. HART, III
ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE
U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, James R. Hart, III of Sandusky, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Jim will soon graduate from Sandusky High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a superior grade point average, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in basketball and soccer. And, he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, serving as co-captain of the basketball and soccer teams.

Jim Hart can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Jim is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Coast Guard. As a USCG Academy Cadet, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, "The Nation's ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve."

I am confident that James R. Hart, III has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our Nation.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLAND HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The Congress has designated this month as a time to celebrate Americans of Asian and Pacific Island ancestry and their contribution to our culture and history. The theme for 2002 is "Unity in Freedom." Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a relatively new holiday. President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating an annual celebration in 1978. President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in 1990.

However men and women of Asian and Pacific Island heritage have a long and rich story as an integral part of America. Asian Americans, at first mostly from China, were first brought to the United States in large numbers as workers . . . workers on the railroads, workers in the gold fields, workers in the agricultural sector. They were often ruthlessly ex-

ploited. Both the public and private sector sought to increase immigration in the early- and mid-1800s in a search for cheap labor as exemplified in the ratification of the Burlingame Treaty which guaranteed the right of Chinese immigration; but which did not, however, grant the right of naturalization.

Our relations with the nations of Asia during this period is a complex one—one too often based on "gun-boat" diplomacy. The combination of racism and competition for jobs led to ugly anti-Asian riots including such shameful events as the 1877 Chico, California riots and the 1885 Rock Springs, Wyoming riots. However, these events resulted in only a brief pause in the rapacious need for cheap labor, and an increasing number of Asian Pacific people were brought or lured to work in Hawaiian and California agriculture—

These new immigrants were increasingly men and women from Japan and the Philippines, especially after the Spanish American War.

The level of anti-Asian racism came into full focus with the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. On February 19, 1942, soon after the beginning of World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. The evacuation order commenced the round-up of 120,000 Americans of Japanese heritage to one of ten internment camps in California, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas. Even though many did not speak Japanese or have close ties to Japan, they were nonetheless regarded as wartime threats. Despite the fact that the U.S. was also at war with Germany and Italy, Americans with ancestors from those countries did not face internment. It took almost half a century for us to acknowledge the enormity of the wrong done to Japanese Americans until Congress passed a measure giving \$20,000 to Japanese Americans who had been interned during the war in 1988. President George H.W. Bush signed it the following year.

Asian Pacific people continued to find their way to the United States and continued to become citizens despite significant legal barriers.

From 1910 to 1940 Angel Island, off California, was used to process mainly Asian immigrants to the United States, earning it the nickname "Ellis Island of the West." With increasing numbers, and growing political awareness the Asian Pacific American community began to assume their rightful place in our democracy. Filipino American farm workers led pioneering struggles for the unionization of agricultural workers. Dalip Singh was elected to U.S. Congress from the agricultural heartland of California.

In 1962 Hawaii sent DANIEL K. INOUE to the U.S. Senate and Spark Matsunaga to the U.S. House. Two years later, PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK of Hawaii was elected to the U.S. House, becoming the first Asian-American woman in Congress. Since then, hundreds of Asian Americans have been elected to state legislatures and municipal positions. In the last quarter of the 20th century America became home to millions of new Americans from the nations of Asia and the Pacific rim including China, India, Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Again the search for workers, especially skilled professionals with training in medicine, computer technology, and other specialties, played an important role. Asian Americans are an important part of our diverse American

people . . . but they are also a diverse group themselves. According to the 2000 census there are 11.9 million U.S. residents who reported themselves as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races in Census 2000. They make up 4.2% of our population. They consist of 2.7 million U.S. residents who reported they were Chinese alone or in combination with one or more other races or Asian groups, 2.4 million Filipino residents, and 1.9 million Asian Indian residents. There were 874,400 native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander according to Census 2000. The median income in 2000 of Asian and Pacific Islander households was \$55,525, the highest median income of any racial group.

The poverty rate of Asian Pacific Islanders in the 2000 census was 10.7%, the lowest poverty rate the Census Bureau has ever measured for this race group. 44% of Asians and Pacific Islanders age 25 and over held a bachelor's degree or higher in 2000. The corresponding rate for all adults 25 and over was 26%. One million Asians and Pacific Islanders held an advanced degree in 2000 (that is, a Master's, Ph.D., M.D., or J.D.), representing a ratio of 1 in 7 Asian Pacific Islanders 25 and over.

There were 913,000 Asian Pacific Islander-owned businesses in the United States in 1997. These businesses employed more than 2.2 million people and generated \$306.9 billion in revenues. They made up 4% of the nation's 20.8 million nonfarm businesses and 30% of all minority-owned firms.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on with statistics describing Americans of Asian and Pacific Island descent . . . but the point is made: Asian Pacific Islanders are integral to our notions of what America is, and what we want America to be.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of our history we have learned to value our diversity. We have learned that our diversity makes us strong. Asian Pacific Americans are an important and irreplaceable part of our diversity. In every aspect of our culture, our economy, our values, our body politic, our creative energy Asian Pacific Americans are an inseparable part.

Mr. Speaker, let us glory in our diversity. Let us all swell with pride at the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans, not just this month, but every month. Let us reach out and embrace one another, secure in the strength of our multi-racial, multi-ethnic society, and understanding the need to further perfect our unity and eliminate every aspect of inequality and inequity.

And let us move forward together, keeping our eyes on the prize of the great American dream, uplifted by the history and contributions of Americans of Asian and Pacific Island descent now woven into our very being as a Nation.

BUILDING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF
BAY CITY FOR 85 YEARS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Kiwanis Club of Bay City,